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# ANTI-SLAVERY MONTHLY REPORTER.

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The "ANTI-SLAVERY MONTHLY REPORTER" will be ready for delivery on the last day of every month. Copies will be forwarded, at the request of any Anti-Slavery Society, at the rate of four shillings per hundred. All persons wishing to receive a regular supply are requested to make application to the Secretary, at the Society's office, No. 18, Aldermanbury, and mention the conveyance by which they may be most conveniently sent.

In our last number we gave a large extract from a pamphlet lately published by the Anti-Slavery Society, entitled, "THE SLAVE COLONIES OF GREAT BRITAIN; OR A PICTURE OF SLAVERY DRAWN BY THE COLONISTS THEMSELVES; BEING AN ABSTRACT OF THE VARIOUS PAPERS RECENTLY LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT ON THAT SUBJECT." This pamphlet is exceedingly valuable, inasmuch as it is what it really purports to be; "A Picture of Slavery, drawn *by the Colonists themselves*." We can now no longer be charged with misrepresentation or exaggeration, or with giving distorted views of Slavery from the writings of those whose veracity has been questioned only because they were friendly to the cause of emancipation. The "Picture, is drawn *by the colonists themselves*;" and upon their own statements we are content that the validity of our cause should rest. We earnestly recommend the perusal of the work to every one; both to those who are against us as well as to those who are for us, as containing irresistible evidence of the enormous evils with which the system of slavery is polluted. The following remarks, with which this pamphlet concludes, bear so fully and forcibly upon the subject, that we give them entire.

"Having now brought the proposed analysis to a conclusion, we beg to offer a few observations upon it.

"The first impression which its perusal is calculated to produce, is a feeling of surprise and horror at the extraordinary state of society which it develops, as existing in a considerable portion of his Majesty's dominions. The laws now presented to the public are not obsolete statutes, the relics of some barbarous age, dragged from their obscurity by a painful research; they are laws framed in the year 1824, by men calling themselves Britons, and who, instead of being sensible that such laws outrage every principle of justice and feeling of humanity, actually hold them forth as models of enlightened and beneficent legislation. But if the laws themselves be, as they are, a crime, what must be their administration in the hands of the men who framed them. and who do not blush to boast of them?

"In the present analysis, as in Mr. Stephen's *Delineation of Colonial Slavery*, the colonists are made to describe their own system; the

\* Though no attempt has been made to reply to Mr. Stephen's admirable work

proofs of its iniquity being drawn from the colonial laws, from other colonial records of unimpeachable authority, or from the evidence of colonial proprietors. We have said much, it is true, of the improvement which has taken place in West Indian legislation, and those who deny it have been charged with misrepresentation. But the public have now an opportunity of judging for themselves. In the anchored slave-codes now brought before them, they will find the proof, the irrefragable proof, of the determined pertinacity with which the colonists cleave to the worst errors, and most revolting deformities of their system."

It has been the fashion, with the friends of the colonial cause, to decry it as containing nothing which is applicable to the questions now at issue. "It refers," they say, "to times that are past. A new system both of law and practice has grown up in the West Indies." Mr. Stephen's work may be very correct as applying to a former period, but, to read it now would be only a waste of time. Nothing can be more untrue than this statement, and the insidious propagation of it knows it to be untrue; but they trust to the effect of its frequent and constant repetition, and of that indolence which leads men to avail themselves of any plausible excuse, in not reading a volume of four or five hundred pages. We, on the contrary, have no hesitation in affirming, that whoever desires to obtain an accurate and comprehensive knowledge of the true genius, the governing principles, the whole frame and structure, the nature and effects, of our colonial slave-laws, must seek for that knowledge in the pages of Mr. Stephen's *Delineation*. Nay, if any of our readers will only take the trouble to compare the legislation of our colonies, during the past year, with the principles laid down in that work, they will at once perceive how singularly those principles serve to explain and elucidate the recent enactments, and how aptly those enactments illustrate and confirm its principles. Mr. Stephen's masterly production will be found to form at this moment the best commentary on the new laws which we have been analyzing.

\* By the *new* slave law of the Bahamas, s. 10—13. Marriages between slaves, and between slaves and free People of Colour, cannot be celebrated without the consent of the owner in writing, which consent there is no provision for compelling the owner to grant, or to assign an adequate reason for not granting. Marriages so celebrated are declared to be good, valid, and binding, to all intents and purposes in the law whatsoever, "saving always the just right of ownership, which in no case whatever shall be in any wise hurt, prejudiced, straitened, or otherwise affected thereby," and "provided that the marital power and authority to be thus acquired by the husband over the wife, shall in no such case impugn, diminish, or interfere with, the rights or authority of the owner, in any manner whatsoever.—See "*Slave Colonies*," pp. 7, 8.

§ 18. Any slave offering violence, by striking or otherwise, to any White person, shall be punished, at the discretion of two justices, with any punishment short of life or limb.

§ 19. To a slave "traudulently" possessed of from five to twenty-eight pounds of beef, mutton, veal, or the flesh of horse, mare, mule, or ass, two justices may give thirty-nine lashes—if more than twenty-eight pounds, they may inflict any punishment not extending to life or limb.—*Ibid.* p. 10.

§ 22—24. A slave aiding a slave to depart from the Bahama islands, shall suffer transportation, or any other punishment, not extending to life and limb. A *Free Negro, or Person of Colour*, doing so, shall be subject to transportation; and if afterwards found at large, to death, without benefit of clergy. A *White* doing so, shall forfeit £100, and be imprisoned for not more than twelve months.—*Ibid.* p. 11.

That the Assembly of the Bahamas is not singular in the spirit with which their recent and "revised" laws have been enacted, will appear from the following extract from s. 27 of the Barbadoes *new* slave law.

§ 27. "Any slaves guilty of quarrelling or fighting with one another; or of violent language or gestures to or of any White persons, or of swearing, or uttering any obscene words, or drunkenness, or making, selling, throwing, or

That such would be the result of a reference of this great question to the decision of the colonial assemblies, we never doubted for a moment. We had been instructed by the wisdom and philosophy of many great authorities, as to the hopelessness of any benefit from such a course ; and we had the still more impressive lessons of experience to convince us that we could expect nothing from it but disaster, disappointment, and delay. Our opinions on the subject have never been more admirably or accurately expressed, than they were by Mr. Canning, in a speech on the Slave Trade made by him in 1799. "Trust not," says that enlightened statesman, making the sentiment of a previous speaker his own, "*trust not the masters of slaves in what concerns legislation for slavery. However specious their laws may appear, depend upon it they must be ineffectual in their operation. It is in the nature of things that they should be so.*"—"LET THEN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS DO THEIR PART THEMSELVES. LET THEM NOT DELEGATE THE TRUST OF DOING IT TO THOSE WHO CANNOT EXECUTE THAT TRUST FAIRLY. *Let the evil be remedied by an Assembly of freemen, by the Government of a free people, and not by the masters of slaves. THEIR LAWS CAN NEVER REACH, COULD NEVER CURE THE EVIL.*" "*There is something in the nature of absolute authority, in the relation between master and slave, which makes despotism in ALL cases, and under ALL circumstances, an incompetent and unsure executor even of its own provisions in favour of the objects of its power.*"

"The eternal truth of these maxims, applied at the time to the Slave Trade, loses none of its force when applied to slavery ; and it has been abundantly confirmed by the fatal experience of nearly thirty years, which have since elapsed, of protracted misery and oppression to the slave, and of unceasing resistance on the part of the master to every effort to alleviate that misery or to terminate that oppression. What indeed now remains to us, but to act on the wise and salutary counsel given to us in 1799, and our past neglect of which has entailed so many evils on the wretched African race ? LET THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS DO THEIR PART THEMSELVES, and let them not continue any longer to DELEGATE THE TRUST OF DOING IT TO THOSE WHO CANNOT EXECUTE THAT TRUST FAIRLY.

"And this is a course which not only the Parliament generally, but those members of it, in particular, who are connected with the West Indies seem bound to adopt. It appears from the papers we have now had under review, that the Order in Council for Trinidad was framed

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fring squibs, serpents, or other fire-works ; or of cock-fighting or gaming ; or of riding on a faster gait than a walk, or of driving upon a faster gait than a gentle trot, on any road, street, or lane of the island ; or of cruelly whipping, beating, or ill-using any horse, mule, ass, or other cattle ; or of negligently driving any waggon, cart, carriage, &c. ; or of any disorderly conduct or misbehaviour ; shall, on conviction before any justice of the peace, be whipped, at his discretion, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes ; but the punishment of pregnant women shall be commuted to imprisonment."—*Ibid.* p. 19.

By §§ 19, 20, of the new slave law of Demerara, the marriage of slaves is provided for "with the permission of their owner," &c. ; upon permission being refused, however, the Protector of Slaves may call upon the owner to shew good cause for so doing. "Provided always, that such marriage shall in no manner confer on the slaves any of those civil rights which by marriage are acquired by

with the exception of the point that of the evidence of slaves,) on the suggestion of the West India body in England. The plan, therefore, was first adopted on their recommendation, and was supported in Parliament by their concurrence. It has been unanimously rejected, however, by the opponents; and now neither Parliament, nor the West India body can, with propriety, decline the only means of carrying their own propositions into effective operation. The measures already adopted constitute a formal recognition of the existence of certain evils, which the authors of these measures have pledged themselves to remove. To this extent, therefore, at the least, we trust that the West Indians will support Mr. Brougham when he shall fulfil his promise of moving the House of Commons on the subject. On them indeed, more than on others, it seems incumbent to second the motion for Parliamentary legislation. Such a proceeding is necessary not only to vindicate the sincerity of their own professions in the counsel they have given to his Majesty's Ministers, but to rescue themselves from any share in that hesitating and ruinous line of policy which their brethren in the colonies seem determined at all hazards to pursue. If no one else were to take the matter up, we should consider the West-Indian proprietors in both Houses of Parliament as bound by a regard to consistency, and by a sense of justice to their wretched bondsmen, to call for the interference of Parliament. Not a few of them are the strenuous advocates of popular rights, and the sworn enemies to oppression, at least in Europe. Let them shew that the operation of their principles is not bounded by geographical limits, or by the colour of the victims of oppression, or by the degree in which their own personal interests may be affected by a demand of justice. They will then be able, when they re-appear on the hustings of those places which they represent, to vindicate more fearlessly and effectually their claim to the popular suffrage.

"We have hitherto confined our remarks to the single point of legis-

persons of free condition, nor subject such slaves to any penal infliction, the effects of which might destroy the rights or injure the property of their owners."

*Ibid.* p. 40.

Instances of a like nature might be abundantly multiplied; but we refer to the pamphlet, where satisfactory references will be found to the laws themselves, and to every document mentioned in the "Abstract."

One circumstance has occurred which weakens our reliance on the support which the West India body at home are bound, in consistency, to give to those measures which are indispensable to the abolition of the reforms proposed by themselves. On the 6th of July 1825, soon after Mr. Brougham had given notice of his intention to move Parliament on this subject, a General Meeting of West India Planters was held at the West India Library, 60, St. James's-street, Charles Ross Ellis, Esq. in the chair, at which it was unanimously resolved, That the West India merchants, and other consignees of West India produce received in London, do charge in their accounts of sales, or accounts current, and instead of 13d. as at present, upon each cask of sugar, puncheon of rum, bag of coffee, and 1000 lb. weight of coffee, and in proportion on all other articles of West India produce imported from the 25th day of March last to the 25th day of March 1826, into the port of London, and that the same be collected in such manner as shall be directed by the Standing Committee of the West-Indian Planters and Merchants, and be paid into the hands of George Hobbert, Esq. the Treasurer.

Similar proposals would indeed have been laid in the other parts of the United Kingdom, into which West-Indian produce is imported. Nothing is

lation; and we think it has been shewn that it is the very height of fatuity to continue to look to the colonial assemblies for any adequate improvement of the state of the slave law. They are themselves the authors of every legislative wrong which is to be rectified, and of every oppression which is to be redressed. They consist, almost to a man, of slave-masters, or at least of the representatives of slave-masters, hardened by familiarity to the sight of those atrocities which have so shocked and astounded the people of Great Britain. And they are surrounded and controlled by a population of needy, ignorant, and profligate constituents, who derive their distinction, from the utter degradation of the Negro race, and a wretched subsistence from the wages they receive as the drivers and coercers of slaves.

"But the papers which we have analysed exhibit a view not only of West-Indian legislation, but of the administration of West-India law. Here a new field of horrors opens upon us. And here again we derive our proofs of the radical iniquity of the system, exclusively, from the recorded testimony of the colonists themselves. They are our witnesses. We do not confine this remark to those domestic punishments of which we have so curious an exhibition in the returns from Trinidad,\* and of which neither law nor justice but mere individual caprice is the arbiter. We allude rather to their criminal slave-courts;—to the nature and imperfections of the judicial returns from the Fiscal of Demerara;†—to the trials of the insurgents in that colony in 1823 (which, however, are not comprehended in the returns that form the subject of the preceding analysis);—to the impunity of the White insurgents of Barbadoes;‡—and, above all, to the reports of the trials of the alleged Black conspirators in Jamaica, in which every species of judicial irregularity appears to find a place;§—and to the barefaced oppressions exercised in that island towards some of the People of Colour.¶ Let these things be fully weighed, and neither the Government nor the Parliament can hesitate as to the imperative necessity of radically reforming a system which produces such abominations as have been detailed;—such perversions of the very forms of law to purposes of cruelty and oppression, as can only find their parallel in the execrated proceedings of Judge Jefferies, or in the practical jurisprudence of Constantinople, Morocco, or Algiers.

"These things must come to an end, and that speedily.—They must come to an end, because neither the government, nor the parliament, nor the people of England can tolerate them much longer; and even if the government and the parliament and the people of England should be so lost to a sense of their obligations, as to suffer them to continue, they

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said of the appropriation of this secret-service money thus levied by the mandate of the West-India club. But whether it shall go to assist in defraying the charges of contested elections; or in rewarding the services of certain periodical writers; or in paying for the circulation of such pamphlets as those of Mr Grosset, Mr. Macdonnell, or Vindex; or in bearing harmless the too rash and fearless advocates of slavery; we trust it will only serve to stimulate, to more unwearied efforts, all who really feel for the interests of humanity and justice.

See 'The Slave Colonies,' pp. 110-114. + *Ibid.* pp. 29-33.

; *Ibid.* p. 29. See also the debate on Mr. Buxton's Motion in the House of Commons on the 23d June, 1825. § 'The Slave Colonies,' pp. 113

¶ See Anti-Slavery Monthly Reporter No. 3

must find their close in one of those convulsions which will involve White and Black, master and slave, the oppressor and the oppressed, in the common and unlistening and overwhelming calamity. Such must, sooner or later, be the effect of going on to delegate, to the colonial assemblies, the solemn duty, which parliament alone can discharge, of going, to the black and Coloured Population of our colonies, the protection of law, and a pure administration of justice.

"We are at the same time, well aware of the preponderating influence which the West-Indian proprietors possess in both houses of parliament. This alone could have prevented, for twenty long years, the abolition of the slave trade. This alone could, for fifteen years more, have paralyzed every effort which was made to rouse the attention of the government and the parliament to the enormities of the slave system, and to the utter worthlessness and the inefficiency of all the pretended improvements adopted by the colonial assemblies." To this cause must we also ascribe it, that almost every public functionary in the slave colonies, is either a proprietor of slaves, or the known partizan of the slave system; that not only many governors, and judges, and attorney-generals, and fiscals, and registrars are taken from the class of slaveholders and their friends, but that, even under the new order of things, this class has been made to supply protectors and sub-protectors of slaves, the very officers on whose zeal, fidelity, and disinterestedness its whole efficiency depends;—that we should be burdened with imposts, and our commerce fettered by impolitic and injurious restrictions, in order to enable the colonists to perpetuate their demoralizing and murderous system;—that the interests of one hundred millions of British subjects in India, in addition to those of Great Britain herself, should be sacrificed to about two thousand planters and merchants;—and that all the benefits which would have flowed to us from establishing international relation with Hayti should have been contemned, her overtures rejected, and her offered favours scorned, until she has at length been driven to throw herself again into the arms of France.\*

\* No part of our policy is more inexplicable, on any rational principles, than that which we have pursued with respect to Hayti. It can only be accounted for by the predominance of West-Indian prejudices and West-Indian influence. During our war with Buonaparte we might have secured to ourselves the friendship, the commerce, and the assistance of Hayti—we were deaf to the most urgent representations on the subject. By the exercise of the commonest courtesy, such as we scruple not to pay to the Dey of Algiers, or to the King of the Sandwich Islands, we might have conciliated the attachment, and made ourselves, in some degree, the masters of the destinies, of the Queen of the Antilles. We might have even succeeded in inducing its inhabitants to adopt our language and habits. As, at one time, their chiefs would have zealously concurred in promoting every measure which would have served to detach them from France—We repelled their offers of friendship. They went the length of even lowering their duties to the extent of one half in favour of England, in hopes of conducting our good will. We treated even this liberality with disdain, and replied that by an Act of Parliament, which prohibited all intercourse between Hayti and Jamaica. They still persevered in their advances. They still continued to treat our commerce with peculiar favour. At length our recognition of the independence of the Spanish provinces in South America, without the most remote allusion to Hayti, whose claims for recognition were infinitely stronger than theirs, and the renewal of the insulting Act, prohibiting their commerce with



"We trust that the eyes of his Majesty's Government, of Parliament, and of the public will at length be opened to the real state of things; and that, no longer deluded by misrepresentation, or intimidated by menace, they will not suffer evils of such magnitude, and of such malignant influence, to be prolonged for a day, in deference to the sixty or seventy West-Indians, who hold seats in parliament. Justice, humanity, a regard to our own honour and consistency, and above all the sacred voice of religion, loudly call upon us, without a moment's delay, to redeem our solemn pledges, and to take care that, "with a fair and equitable consideration, indeed, of the interests of all parties," "effectual and decisive measures" are now adopted "for ameliorating the condition of the slave population in his Majesty's colonies;" and for admitting them to "a participation in those civil rights and privileges which are enjoyed by other classes of his Majesty's subjects."

"One word more before we conclude our painful task. A work has just made its appearance, of considerable labour, and considerable pretence to authority, containing 270 closely printed octavo pages, entitled, "Considerations submitted in Defence of the Orders in Council for the Melioration of Slavery in Trinidad, and upon the probable Effect of sudden Emancipation on agricultural Industry and British Capital in the West Indies, in a Series of Letters which appeared in the Star Newspaper under the Signature of Vindex. To which is annexed, the thirteenth Article in the sixteenth Number of the Quarterly Review; and the observations thereon, in a series of Letters which appeared in the New Times Newspaper under the Signature of Anglus." It is printed for

Jamaica, left them no hope of obtaining that standing among nations, which they deemed essential to their independence and security, but by throwing themselves into the arms of France, and by sacrificing to her rivalry the interests of British commerce. It may not be known to our readers; it certainly was not known to ourselves, nor, as far as we have been able to discover, to any member of the House of Commons, unconnected with the West Indies, or with the public offices of Government, that, in the very last session of Parliament, an Act was passed which contains the following clause:—

"And be it further enacted, that no British merchant ship or vessel shall sail from any place in the island of Jamaica to any place in the island of St. Domingo, nor from any place in the island of St. Domingo to any place in the island of Jamaica, under the penalty of the forfeiture of such ship or vessel, together with her cargo; and that no foreign ship or vessel which shall have come from, or shall in the course of her voyage have touched at, any such place in the island of St. Domingo, shall come into any port or harbour in the island of Jamaica; and if any such ship or vessel, having come into any such port or harbour, shall continue there for forty-eight hours after notice shall have been given by the officer of the Customs to depart therefrom, such ship or vessel shall be forfeited; and if any person shall be landed in the island of Jamaica from on board any ship or vessel which shall have come from or touched at the island of St. Domingo except in case of urgent necessity, or unless licence shall have been given by the Governor of Jamaica to land such person, such ship shall be forfeited, together with her cargo."

When the date of this enactment is compared with that of the treaty which has been concluded with France, we cannot doubt that Boyer was influenced by it to agree to the severe terms which were exacted from him, seeing how completely he was excluded, by that galling measure, as well as by our declining all official intercourse with him, from every hope of the favour or friendship of this country.

And now let it be calmly considered what will be our situation in the West

Murray, and is addressed "to those Members of both Houses of Parliament who, whatever may be their private interests, or preconceived opinions, feel anxious for the elucidation of truth in the question of West-India Slavery." It is an elaborate, ingenious, and humane attempt to quiet the consciences of those gentlemen and their friends who having private interests involved in the question, are desirous of having a salvo against the agony of self-accusation, and a plausible excuse to the world for prolonging the existence of that foul and disgraceful system. But all will not do. The national conscience can no longer be lulled to sleep. Its powerful voice will be heard, and will sweep away all such refuges of lies as would seek to reconcile the toleration of such practices, either to the character of our country, or the paramount obligations of Christian duty.

"The grand object of this bulky pamphlet is to prove to the British Parliament, that slavery in the West Indies is a bitter and more gainful condition of society than freedom. If this position were true, it would be an arraignment of the moral government of God. If it were as true as it is false, the people of England would revolt from the idea of pocketing the gains arising from such a hideous combination of injustice, cruelty, and crime. But it is as false as it is impious and inhuman.

The pamphlet to which we allude appears to have proceeded from the same arsenal which supplied the materials for Lord Bathurst's speech in March 1824; for the article on the West Indies in the Quarterly Review; and for the comments on the case of the *Porto Paulo*. One of the grand arguments, indeed the *argumentum palmare* of this school, has been drawn from a comparison of the island of Hayti with our own colonies. On this pretext their system, much of the present production has been made to rest. But, unfortunately for the author, it had vanished from under him before his pamphlet saw the light. The fact that the population of Hayti had grown, in about twenty years, from half a million to nearly a million, had already led the way to the rest of his goodly argument; and the recognition of Hayti as independent, and the price which Hayti has been able to pay for it, has swept away the very last vestige even of the rubbish that had been falling around him.

Indies, in the event of another war with France. Our possessions there would not be worth a week's purchase. The whole navy of England, and a fresh debt of a hundred millions, could not save Jamaica from becoming the revolutionary independent of Hayti. Nothing, in such an event, could avert our loss of that and our other slave colonies, but a previous radical change of our whole colonial system. We must raise the free People of Colour to the full enjoyment of their rights and privileges as British subjects; and we must proceed, with as little delay as possible, to give liberty to the slave. If we refuse to do this, the catastrophe we anticipate may be delayed for a few years, but it cannot, in the constitution of things, be far distant.

Those who wish to understand the nature of this new danger, and the means of averting it, might consult two publications of Mr. Stephen, written upwards of twenty years ago, on the subject of Hayti, entitled *The Crisis of the Sugar Colonies*, and *The Opportunity*, works which will now be found to wear almost a prophetic air, such was the accuracy of the author's knowledge of the circumstances of the case, and his sagacity in appreciating their effects.

## ANTI-SLAVERY MEETING AT NORWICH.

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On Thursday the 20th October last, a County Meeting for the County of Norfolk, to Petition the Legislature for the Abolition of Slavery, was held at the Shirehall, in Norwich, pursuant to a requisition for that purpose; among the signatures to which, were those of Lords Albemarle, W. G. Bentinck, Stafford, Calthorpe, and Suffield, the Bishop of Norwich, the Members for the County, and upwards of forty of the most respectable Clergymen and Gentlemen in the County.

Upon the motion of Lord Suffield, the High Sheriff took the chair, when the following resolutions (among others) were unanimously passed.

1st.—That the system of slavery, as it is now maintained in the West Indian and other colonies of Great Britain, a system which degrades many hundred thousands of our fellow men to the condition of chattels to be bought and sold at pleasure—appears to this meeting to be utterly inconsistent with the unalienable natural rights of men, with the benevolent precepts of Christianity, and, with those essential principles of the British constitution, which ought to secure to all his Majesty's subjects, wherever situated, an equal participation in the benefit of the laws.

2d.—That we consider it our bounden duty, as Christians and Englishmen, to promote by all justifiable means, with a due consideration of the interests of all the parties concerned, the immediate mitigation of that system, and its total extinction at the earliest safe and practicable period; and that we cordially approve the resolutions to this effect proposed by Mr. Canning to the House of Commons in May, 1823, and unanimously adopted by that Honourable House.

3rd.—That it is with the deepest regret we observe that the wise proposals made by his Majesty's Government, for the purpose of effecting the just and benevolent ends, have either received little or no attention from several West Indian Colonial Legislatures, or after consideration have been positively rejected.

4th.—That under these circumstances, we consider it our duty to support the Government in their great object, and to petition the Parliament of Great Britain to take such further measures as may appear to them the most desirable, in order to surmount the difficulties occasioned by so unreasonable an opposition, and effect the immediate mitigation, and, with as little delay as possible, the final and entire abolition of British colonial slavery.

5th.—That the Petition now read be adopted.

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### THE PETITION.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

*The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of the county of Norfolk.*

SHEWETH,

That your petitioners are deeply impressed with the conviction that the system of Slavery, as it is established in the West Indian and other Colonies of Great Britain, a system which degrades nearly eight hundred thousands of our fellow men to the condition of chattels, to be bought and sold at pleasure, and which occasionally exposes them to the most grievous sufferings, is utterly inconsistent

with the inalienable natural rights of men; with the benevolent provisions of our holy religion; and with the sacred principles of the British Constitution, which ought to secure to all his Majesty's subjects, in whatever situation, a full participation in the benefits of civilised justice and equal laws.

That your petitioners consider that the continued maintenance of such a system involves it is nation in the deepest guilt, and that it is our own indispensable duty as Christians and Englishmen, to every proper means in our power, to promote its immediate mitigation and final extinction.

That while your petitioners cordially approve of the resolutions unanimously passed to this effect by your Honourable House in May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, and while they are thankful for the efforts so wisely made since that period by his Majesty's Government in order to promote the great end in view, they deeply regret that the fervent desires of the British people, the declared sentiments of Parliament, and the strong recommendations of Government, have hitherto been rendered almost entirely abortive by a local opposition of the most determined and disgraceful character.

That under these circumstances your petitioners beseech your Honourable House to take the subject into your consideration, and to adopt such further measures as shall appear to you the best calculated to overcome so unreasonable an opposition, and to insure the immediate amelioration, and as early as possible, consistently with the safety of all the parties concerned, the final and entire abolition of British Colonial Slavery.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

In the course of the Meeting some observations made by Col. Wodehouse, in opposition to the resolutions proposed, were fully and satisfactorily replied to, by T. F. Buxton, Esq., M.P. in an eloquent, and animated speech, which produced a most powerful impression upon the Meeting; and so completely was every objection overborne by the Hon. Gentleman, and his noble associates, and by the facts they stated, that even the gallant Colonel himself did not hold up his hand in opposition to any of the resolutions.

The people of Norfolk have done themselves great honour in thus standing forward as the first to present a County Petition to the Legislature; and we trust and confidently hope that their noble example will be followed before the opening of the next Session of Parliament, by every county in the kingdom.

*This, and all other publications of the Society, may be had at their office 18, Aldermanbury; or at Messrs. Hatchards, 187, Piccadilly, and Arch's, Cornhill. They may also be procured through any bookseller, or at the depots of the Anti-Slavery Society throughout the kingdom.*

*The following Publications may be procured as above.*

**REVIEW** of the **QUARTERLY REVIEW** ; or, an Exposure of the Erroneous Opinions promulgated in that Work on the Subject of Colonial Slavery: being the Substance of a Series of Letters which appeared in the "New Times" of September and October, 1824. With Notes and an Appendix.

**EAST-INDIA SUGAR** ; or, an Inquiry respecting the Means of Improving the Quality and Reducing the Cost of Sugar raised by Free Labour in the East Indies. With an Appendix, containing Proofs and Illustrations.

**FIRST REPORT** of the **COMMITTEE** of the **SOCIETY** for the **MITIGATION** and **GRADUAL ABOLITION** of **SLAVERY** throughout the British Dominions, read at the General Meeting of the Society held on the 25th day of June, 1824, together with an Account of the Proceedings which took place at that Meeting.

The **SECOND REPORT**, &c. with an Appendix, containing important Documents illustrative of the State and Impolicy of Slavery, and the means for its Amelioration and gradual Abolition. 1825.

**NEGRO SLAVERY** ; or, a View of some of the prominent Features of the State of Society, as it exists in the United States, and in the Colonies of the West Indies, especially in Jamaica.

**AN APPEAL** to the Religion, Justice, and Humanity of the Inhabitants of the British Empire, in behalf of the Negro Slaves in the West Indies. By **WILLIAM WILBERFORCE**, Esq. M. P.

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